

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic mail system comprising:

a determination portion determining whether or not destination limiting information is included in an electronic mail that is planned to be transmitted;

an identification portion identifying whether or not said electronic mail should be transmitted to destinations included in a header of said electronic mail based on destination limiting information if it is determined by said determination portion that the destination limiting information is included; and

a transmission portion transmitting said electronic mail only to a destination that is identified by said identification portion as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

2. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein said destination limiting information includes specific information of area to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identification portion identifies a destination coinciding with said specific information of area among the destinations included in said header as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail

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only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

3. An electronic mail system according to claim 2, wherein said specific information of area includes a domain name included in an electronic mail address of the destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identification portion compares the destinations included in the header with said domain name and identifies an electronic mail including said domain name as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

4. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second determination portion determining whether or not area designation information is included in said electronic mail; and

an extraction portion extracting a part designated by the area designation information from a body of said electronic mail if it is determined by said second determination portion that the area designating information is included;

and wherein said identification portion identifies at least to which of a first area or a second area the destinations included

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in the header of said electronic mail belongs to; and

if it is determined that the area designating information is included, said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail to one of the destination belonging to the first area and the destination belonging to the second area, and at the same time, transmits another electronic mail in which the part extracted by said extraction portion is included as a body to the other destination.

5. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein, if it is determined by said determination portion that the destination limiting information is not included, said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail to all the destinations included in the header.

6. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a keeping portion keeping an electronic mail that is planned to be transmitted for a predetermined time; and

a cancellation portion deleting said electronic mail kept by said keeping portion in accordance with a transmission cancellation instruction obtained before the predetermined time elapses;

and wherein, if said electronic mail kept by said keeping portion is not deleted before the predetermined time elapses, said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail after

the predetermined time elapses.

7. An electronic mail system according to claim 6, wherein said transmission portion transmits said electronic mail kept by said keeping portion before the predetermined time elapses in accordance with a forcibly transmission instruction.

8. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein said determination portion, said identification portion and said transmission portion are provided in a mail server for receiving an electronic mail from a mail client or other mail servers, and execute processing for an electronic mail received by said mail server.

9. An electronic mail system according to claim 4, wherein said determination portion, said identification portion, said second determination portion, said extraction portion and said transmission portion are provided in a mail server for receiving an electronic mail from a mail client or other mail servers, and execute processing for an electronic mail received by said mail server.

10. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein said determination portion, said identification portion and said transmission portion are provided in a mail client transmitting an electronic mail to a mail server, and execute processing for an electronic mail to be prepared by said mail client and transmitted to said mail server.

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11. An electronic mail system according to claim 4, wherein said determination portion, said identification portion, said second determination portion, said extraction portion and said transmission portion are provided in a mail client for transmitting an electronic mail to a mail server, and execute processing for an electronic mail to be prepared in said mail client and transmitted to said mail server.

12. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein said destination limiting information is added to a header of said electronic mail transmitted to a mail server in a mail client.

13. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, wherein said destination limiting information is added to a header of said electronic mail transmitted to a mail server in a mail client, and said area designation information is added to a body of said electronic mail.

14. An electronic mail system according to claim 1, further comprising: a notification portion notifying the destinations to which said electronic mail was not transmitted by said transmission portion.

15. An electronic mail system according to claim 3, wherein said identification portion prepares a first list in which a destination is registered that is identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted among the destinations included in the header based on said destination

limiting information; and

said transmission portion transmits an electronic mail with the destination registered in said first list only remaining in the header.

16. An electronic mail system according to claim 15, wherein said identification portion prepares a second list in which destinations are registered that are not identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted among the destinations included in the header based on said destination limiting information; and

the fact that said electronic mail was not transmitted to the destinations registered in said second list is notified to a sender of said electronic mail.

17. A method for transmitting electronic mails comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not destination limiting information is included in an electronic mail that is planned to be transmitted;

identifying whether or not said electronic mail should be transmitted to destinations included in a header of said electronic mail based on destination limiting information if it is determined that the destination limiting information is included; and

transmitting said electronic mail only to a destination that

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is identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

18. A method for transmitting electronic mails according to claim 17, wherein said destination limiting information includes specific information of an area to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identifying step identifies a destination coinciding with said specific information of an area among the destinations included in said header as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

19. A method for transmitting electronic mails according to claim 18, wherein said specific information of area is a domain name included in an electronic mail address of the destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identifying step compares the destinations included in the header with said domain name and identifies an electronic mail including said domain name as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

20. A method for transmitting electronic mails according to claim 17, further comprising:

a second determining step for determining whether or not area designation information is included in said electronic mail; and

an extraction step for extracting a part designated by the area designation information from a body of said electronic mail if it is determined that said area designating information is included;

and wherein said identifying step identifies at least to which of a first area or a second area the destinations included in the header of said electronic mail belong; and

if it is determined that the area designating information is included, said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail to one of the destination belonging to the first area and the destination belonging to the second area, and at the same time, transmits another electronic mail in which the extracted part is included as a body to the other destination.

21. A method for transmitting electronic mails according to claim 17, wherein, if it is determined that the destination limiting information is not included, said electronic mail is transmitted to all the destinations included in the header.

22. A method for transmitting electronic mails according to claim 17, further comprising:

a keeping step for keeping an electronic mail that is planned



to be transmitted for a predetermined time; and

a canceling step for deleting said electronic mail kept by said keeping portion in accordance with a transmission cancellation instruction obtained before the predetermined time elapses;

and wherein, if the kept electronic mail is not deleted before the predetermined time elapses, said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail after the predetermined time elapses.

23. A computer readable medium storing a computer program for executing a transmitting process of an electronic mail by a computer, wherein the computer program comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not destination limiting information is included in an electronic mail that is planned to be transmitted;

identifying whether or not said electronic mail should be transmitted to destinations included in a header of said electronic mail based on destination limiting information if it is determined that the destination limiting information is included; and

transmitting said electronic mail only to a destination that is identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

24. A computer readable medium according to claim 23,

wherein said destination limiting information includes specific information of area to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identifying step identifies a destination coinciding with said specific information of area among the destinations included in said header as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

25. A computer readable medium according to claim 24, wherein said specific information of area is a domain name included in an electronic mail address of the destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted;

said identifying step compares the destinations included in the header with said domain name and identifies an electronic mail address including said domain name as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted; and

said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail only to the destination identified as a destination to which said electronic mail should be transmitted.

26. A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the computer program further comprises:

a second determining step for determining whether or not area

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designaation information is included in said electronic mail; and

an extraction step extracting a part designated by the area designaation information from a body of said electronic mail if it is determined that said area designating information is included;

and wherein said identifying step identifies at least to which of a first area or a second area the destinations included in the header of said electronic mail belongs; and

if it is determined that the area designating information is included, said transmitting step transmits said electronic mail to one of the destination belonging to the first area and the destination belonging to the second area, and at the same time, transmits another electronic mail in which the extracted part is included as a body to the other destination.

27. A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the computer program transmits said electronic mail to all the destinations included in the header if it is determined that the destination limiting information is not included.

28. A computer readable medium storing a computer program for executing a transmitting process of electronic mail by a computer, wherein the computer program comprises:

a keeping step for keeping an electronic mail that is planned to be transmitted for a predetermined time;

a canceling step for deleting said electronic mail kept by





part of a body of said electronic mail to be sent to one of a destination belonging to the first area and a destination belonging to the second area among the plurality of areas; and

a transmission portion for transmitting said electronic mail added with said destination limiting information and said area designating information.

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